# ANNUAL INSECT CONTROL REPORT, DISTRICT 4

R.H. RUTLEDGE AND C.H. WOODS
OGDEN, UTAH
DECEMBER 13, 1926

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U. S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Intermountain District

Ogden, Utah.

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Insect Control, D-4

December 13, 1926.

The Forester,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

One of the best results which this District can report to you in connection with insect control work is that practically all of the Forests are now pretty much alive to their insect problems and are really finding out on the ground what their insect problems are and conscientiously watching developments along this line. The insect control reports this year are much better than they have ever been before.

The combined monticola and murrayanae infestation in lodgepole pine reported previously as having been in epidemic form for sometime and infesting the lodgepole belt extending across the Idaho, Payette, Boise and Salmon country, mostly on the Salmon River drainage, is in about the same condition as last year. It apparently is neither letting up nor increasing perceptibly. You will remember that Mr. Evenden of the Bureau of Entomology was of the opinion that it became so widespread that no control action was practicable and in this we fully agreed. All other Forests report endemic conditions except as follows:

Ashley - Attacks of Dendroctonus ponderosae in the yellow pine stands on the northeast corner of the Ashley Forest are still prevalent, although a considerable area has been and is this winter being cleaned up by administrative use to a small sawmill located near Greendale on the Forest and in the yellow pine type. Over 200 trees have already been cut by this little mill and infested trees are being hauled for a distance of nine miles to the mill. How the local officers are securing this kind of cooperation is hard to see, but they are doing it. Supervisor Nord and his Forest force have made a pretty careful extensive cruise of this body of yellow pine and estimate there are about 600 trees of the 1926 infestation

For information of - Mr. Craighead

which they will be unable to get cut by the sawmill. However, this epidemic has been going now for about six years and as nearly as can be ascertained is just holding its own, or perhaps is on the decline. No recommendation is made at this time that funds be allotted to this project. We plan on doing considerable work on this area with contributed time of the Ashley force and other near by Forests during the spring and fall of 1927. This work will not only answer the purpose of control but will help in the training of Forest officers in this line of work to the end that they will better understand their problems on their own districts. Mr. Morse was over this area in July and went into the matter in a lot of detail with Supervisor Nord and the local force.

At the time Morse was on the Ashley last July a new infestation of Dendroctonus ponderosae in the yellow pine on the south side of the Forest extending from the Uinta River in a narrow strip along the south boundary west to the boundary between the Ashley and Uinta Forests was noted. The Indian Reservation timber joins the Forest boundary on the south and probably the heaviest infestation is on Indian lands. A careful extensive cruise of the entire yellow pine stand on National Forest and Indian lands has just been completed by Supervisor Nord and his rangers and the best estimate which can be made at this time is that there is at least 500 infested trees on National Forest land and about the same number or possibly a little more on the Indian lands. Supervisor Nord has discussed this matter in detail with the Indian agent and has secured a statement from him that he is very much interested and wants the Service to tell him how to go about his problem and states that he can organize a considerable crew of whites and Indians in his employ and collectively start in next spring to carry on control measures. Nord and his rangers are planning to fell some trees close to the Dry Gulch Ranger Station and burn them immediately after the first of the year if the snow does not get a foot or more deep. I have not a great deal of hopes it can be done at that time of year. However, the District plans on assigning as many Forest officers as possible early next spring to the Ashley Forest for control work. We will probably have 10 or 12 men from other Forests on this job for a period of about two weeks. Supervisor Nord found places on the south side of the Ashley where the spread of the 1926 infestation was on the basis of about two to one. In fact, it is his opinion that at least twice as many trees were infested in

1926 as were infested in 1925. Ranger Clyde Lambert says that he found in one place an infestation of seven trees in 1926 and one tree of the 1925 infestation. Apparently the infestation on the south side of the Ashley and on Indian lands is just breaking into epidemic form and immediate action should be taken. We do not want to wait in this case until it is too late as has been the case on other control projects. It is strongly recommended, therefore, that $500 of insect control money be allotted to this District for work in March and April, 1927 to be used on National Forest lands along the south boundary of the Ashley Forest.

This is the only project for which we will recommend the allotment of funds for the fiscal year 1927. The funds thus allotted will be used for the transportation of Forest officers to the job and for food supplies, and the transportation of equipment from the Kaibab to the Ashley. I am sending a copy of this report to Mr. J. M. Miller of the Bureau of Entomology and asking him to assign a man to the project if he has one available. We will probably have Swapp from the Kaibab and Buchenroth from the Teton on the job also.

There is also an infestation in the spruce stands on the head of Dry Fork on the Ashley which it is planned to handle insofar as possible by small sawmill cutting and trying out the trap tree method. Extensive cruises made this year show that about 12% of this particular stand has been killed by beetles during the past several years. The infestation is so old that it is not considered practicable to attempt direct control measures other than the securing of as much infested timber as possible by the small sawmill already set up near the area.

Unless the infestation on the northeast corner of the Ashley dies out before next fall, we expect to recommend an allotment of $300 to make a clean-up of this area in the fall of 1927.

Cache - There is a pretty serious infestation of Dendroctonus murrayanae in lodgepole pine on the head of Strawberry Creek and Emigration Canyon and along the top of the divide to Copenhagen Basin on the main division of the Cache. This infestation has been going on for some three or four years now and attempts have been made to check it by securing the removal of infested trees on sale and administrative use. Not a great deal of progress has been made in this work until this fall when Supervisor Arentson was successful in interesting a small tie operator with a

sawmill to going into these stands. The ties are being manufactured and hauled to Ovid a station on the Oregon Short Line between Paris and Montpelier. A small part of the ties are being sold at two cents per tie, it being necessary to haul them over two divides, this small drainage being located at the head of Williams Creek. The ties in the head of Strawberry which are hauled over one divide are bringing us four cents per tie and those on the head of Emigration Canyon are being sold at six cents per tie. The sale and administrative use contracts provide that all infested trees regardless of size and merchantability will be treated and we are securing there an excellent clean-up of the infestation and hope to have it almost completely controlled before the flight of the beetles next spring.

The Douglas fir infestation on Eight Mile Creek which Fitzwater will remember, has been completely controlled by the cutting of the trees and the burning of the slabs by small sawmill men.

Dixie, Kaibab and Powell - Dendroctonus ponderosae on the Dixie, Kaibab and Powell Forests is now endemic to the extent that it is hardly possible to find an infested tree.

Humboldt - The monticola infestation in limber pine reported on last year is now under control.

La Sal and Manti - The infestations in Engelmann spruce on the La Sal and Manti are now entirely under control due to concerted action in permitting only insect infested trees to be cut.

Minidoka - The lodgepole pine insect epidemic which was handled by sales, administrative use and a small allotment of insect control funds, is completely under control.

Salmon - There is a small outbreak of Dendroctonus brevicomis in yellow pine on Hughes Creek and Carl Gulch on the Salmon Forest which we expect to handle by restricting the cutting in that vicinity to insect infested trees alone.

There is quite a little infestation of Dendroctonus murrayanea in the Provo River lodgepole pine on the Wasatch but this has been going on for quite a number of years and does not seem to be getting any worse. No control measures are recommended but attempts are being made to get this under sale at the earliest possible date.

Wyoming - The needle tyer is working some in lodgepole on the Wyoming and also the spruce budworm is doing quite a little bit of damage to alpine fir and Douglas fir. No control measures will be attempted.

We are mindful of the conditions and insect control work in District 1 and are fully in accord with the desire of your office to concentrate on work there in the spring of 1927, but we fully believe that an allotment of $500 or less, if you think best, should be made to the Ashley job for work now since apparently this infestation is just breaking into a bad epidemic and should be caught before it is too late. In addition to this, the project is a cooperative one with the Indian Department and it is, therefore, particularly desirable.

Very truly yours,

R. H. RUTLEDGE, District Forester,

By C. N. WOODS, Acting.

Enclosure:
1 map of Ashley.